

REPRESENTING HARTFORD & WETHERSFIELD

YOUR STATE SENATOR **John Fonfara**



Speaking with community activist Hyacinth Yennie at my recent Metzner Center Senior Fair

Legislative Office Building, Room 3700, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

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Senator John Fonfara

Legislative Office Building, Room 3700
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-0043

www.SenatorFonfara.cga.ct.gov



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Watching a game of pool at the Boys & Girls Club in Hartford with Joseph "Papa Joe" Lapenta. I was pleased to be on hand when the Boys & Girls Clubs of America announced that Lapenta had been named a "2013 Maytag Dependable Leader" in recognition for his commitment and dedication to keeping our youth on a path to achievement. (Michelle McLoughlin/AP Images for Boys & Girls Clubs of America)

Demanding Acceptable "Road Cut" Repairs



When a utility company cuts into a street in Hartford or Wethersfield to make repairs, too often the patch they leave behind will sink and create a hazard to you as a driver and to your vehicle. It is a waste of your tax dollars. Recently, I worked to pass legislation requiring that all utilities go back to review each "road cut" one year after a repair is made and make all necessary final improvements. I am committed to making sure utility companies are held accountable and follow this law.

Investing in Our Next Generation



This year I worked to pass the Next Generation Connecticut Initiative, a major effort aimed at transforming the University of Connecticut into a nation-leading institution in the growing "STEM" fields of science, technology, engineering and math. With the advice of an industry-driven advisory committee, UConn will seek to develop top-notch research expertise within these fields to best meet the needs of Connecticut employers, attract new companies to our state, and graduate the best-trained students in the most in-demand fields to stimulate both job and business growth in our state.

Opportunities Other Than College

Supporting our college-bound students is critical, but not everyone will or should go to college. For many, earning a degree in health care or computer technology or in a skilled trade can be done in less time, at less expense, and can often lead to an immediate job with a satisfying income. Last year I worked to re-establish night classes for three trades at Prince Tech. This year we are working to expand the night school opportunities for other trades and careers. Also, we are working to significantly improve how families are informed about these career opportunities before students enter high school.



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Update from SENATOR John Fonfara

Increasing Homeownership in Hartford

The number of owner-occupied homes in Hartford is the lowest of any town in the state. In many neighborhoods where there is a high percentage of absentee landlords, property disinvestment, blight and other social challenges are often present. With greater homeownership comes increased resident involvement, and school performance improves. Working with a coalition of Hartford-based housing organizations in this coming legislative session, I will seek to make a greater amount of state housing funds available for homeownership to measurably improve the number of owner-occupied homes in Hartford.



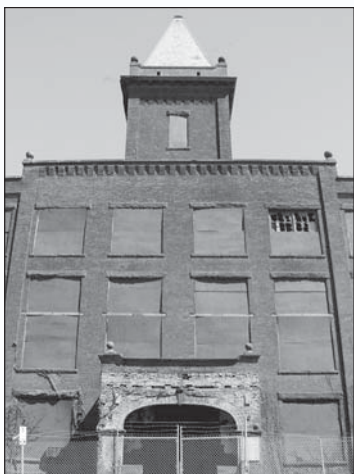
Parkville: State Leader in Energy Innovation

We all remember the impact of the multiple severe storms that left much of the state without power for up to a week each time. As if the loss of

power were not enough, many could not get food or gas for their cars for days afterward. As the chairman of the Energy Committee, I worked closely with the Malloy administration to establish a pilot micro-electricity program to identify clusters of critical locations to have a separate electric power source in the event of a prolonged power outage. I am proud to announce that Parkville will be one of the state's first nine micro-grids, providing power to the Parkville Senior Center and library, gas station and supermarket.

Renovating the Capewell Factory

The former Capewell Horse Nail factory on Charter Oak Avenue is one of Hartford's great landmarks. Environmental remediation of the Capewell property has been a priority for many in the Sheldon-Charter Oak neighborhood, so I was delighted to help secure a \$2 million grant from the state this year to help clean up the site. Despite a number of previous attempts at restoration, a very credible development plan is now in place to create approximately 90 high-quality housing units and 35,000 square feet of retail space. I am committed to working with Rep. Angel Arce, community leaders Lynn Ferrari, Bernadine Silvers and others to bring Capewell back.



A New Look for Wethersfield Avenue

Wethersfield Avenue is one the South End's most highly traveled thoroughfares, and home to many local merchants, destination restaurants and other small businesses. Working together with the South End NRZ, community leader Alphonse Marotta, and Costa del Sol owner Pepe Feijoo, I was able to secure funding for streetscape improvements on Wethersfield Avenue between Eaton Street and Victoria Road. These upgrades include new granite curbing, sidewalk and crosswalk pavers, ornamental lighting and installation of traffic-calming features to increase safety for both drivers and pedestrians.



Working with my colleague State Representative Russ Morin, we have been successful in obtaining state funds for the following important Wethersfield projects:

Old Wethersfield: Walkable & Safe

Historic Wethersfield is one of our state's oldest treasures. Making the area more walkable should help to draw more visitors to its landmarks, shops and restaurants. With this in mind, I helped secure \$250,000 to reconfigure three difficult-to-cross intersections in the area to provide greater safety for pedestrians. The three intersections are: Marsh, Main and Church Street; Hartford Avenue at Main Street; and Hartford Avenue and State Street.



Playground for Emerson-Williams

In support of the great work of the Emerson-Williams PTO, as well as the Town of Wethersfield, I helped secure \$75,000 in state funds for the full-scale renovation of the playground at Emerson-Williams

Elementary School. Unlike its predecessor, the new playground is accessible (ADA-compliant), includes a new synthetic rubber surface and has improved drainage.

New Pavilion at Mill Woods Park

The Loretta's Dream Foundation has constructed a new picnic pavilion at Mill Woods Park where the community of Wethersfield can come together and enjoy the outdoors. The pavilion is named in memory of the Foundation's namesake, a mother who died of breast cancer in 2005. I was honored to help secure \$50,000 in state funds to aid in this effort.



Montanaro Field Improvements

Located near the entrance of Mill Woods Park, the Montanaro Soccer Field is heavily used by Wethersfield youth soccer teams. This year I helped secure \$125,000 for a complete regrading of the playing surface, as well as drainage and irrigation improvements, to make the field more enjoyable and safer for Wethersfield's up-and-coming soccer stars.



Digital Media Training for Students & Veterans

An exciting partnership between CPTV and the Journalism & Media Academy Magnet School is bringing hands-on experience to area high school seniors, overseen by media experts at CPTV, in the rapidly growing fields of digital media applications, video production, computer game design and web development. I am proud to have helped secure \$1 million toward the construction of a new Learning Lab utilizing 20,000 square feet and two floors of CPTV's Asylum Hill studio. The Learning Lab is also providing workforce development programs for post-9/11 military veterans in the evening, a great helping hand to our returned heroes looking to start their civilian careers.